

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 COTONO 01156 150835Z

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 FAA-00 DOTE-00 /018 W

-----064587 150845Z /20

R 150745Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9869

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COTONOU 1156

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, PINS, DM

SUBJECT: BENIN OVERFLIGHT CLEARANCE

REF: STATE 156315

1. ECONOMIC OFFICER IN CONVERSATION WITH BENIN CIVAIR DIRECTOR JULY 11 GAVE ASSURANCES THAT US INTENDS TO COMPLY WITH BENIN'S PROCEDURES FOR OVERFLIGHT CLEARANCE AND RELAYED FLYING TIGER'S REQUEST FOR MORE FLEXIBILITY IN VALIDITY DURATION. DIRECTOR STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF ADEQUATE LEAD TIME, AS BUREAUCRATIC PROCEDURES FOR CLEARANCE THROUGH PRESIDENCY INSTITUTED AFTER JANUARY 16 HAD NOT YET BEEN SMOOTHED OUT WITH RESULTING DELAYS IN RESPONSES. REGARDING FLEXIBILITY IN CLEARANCE VALIDITY, HE MADE POINT THAT HIS OFFICE WAS NOT REALLY IN A POSITION TO MAKE SUCH A DECISION. SEVENTY-TWO HOURS, HOWEVER, SEEMED AN INORDINATELY LONG PERIOD IN REGARD TO BENIN'S INTERNAL SECURITY IMPERATIVES. DEVIATIONS IN FLIGHT TIME OF LESS THAN 48 HOURS WOULD PROBABLY BE OVERLOOKED IF OVERFLYING AIRCRAFT COULD PROPERLY IDENTIFY ITSELF.

2. REGARDING FLYING TIGER'S REQUESTS AND DELAYED RESPONSES, CIV AIR DIRECTOR POINTED OUT THAT FLYING TIGER WAS SINGLE CHARTER COMPANY THAT INSISTED ON USING COMMERCIAL CABLE THROUGH PTT, AND NOT AIRPORT TELEX. CIVAIR OFFICE THEREFORE REPLIED BY COMMERCIAL

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CABLE WHICH ENGENDERED VARIOUS SORTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE DELAYS. DIRECTOR DID NOT SEE NECESSITY OF SPECIAL PROCEDURE FOR FLYING TIGER AND EXPRESSED DESIRE IT SWITCH TO AIRPORT TELEX.

3. POST REQUESTS THAT DEPARTMENT RELAY CONTENTS OF PARA 2 TO PEPPER AT FLYING TIGER AND ALSO ADVISE THAT REQUEST FOR CHANGE IN CLEARANCE FOR JULY 13 OVERFLIGHTS TO JULY 16 HAS BEEN TRANSMITTED

VERBALY. CIVAIR DIRECTOR DOUBTED, HOWEVER, THAT CABLE ADVISING  
FLYING TIGER OF APPROVAL WOULD ARRIVE IN TIME AND SUGGESTED THAT  
FLIGHT PROCEED IN ANY CASE.  
THOMPSON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CIVIL AVIATION, FLIGHT CLEARANCES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 15-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977COTON001156  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 77 STATE 156315  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BENIN OVERFLIGHT CLEARANCE  
**TAGS:** EAIR, PINS, DM, FLYING TIGER AIRLINES  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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